

**From:** bebryant@compuserve.com@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 12/6/01 6:33pm  
**Subject:** DOJ MS Settlement

It seems to me that the DOJ settlement is unlikely to curtail MS's monopolistic behavior. I have watched over the years as MS has adopted ideas from outside entrepreneurs, poured massive development effort into making their adopted software better than the original, included it in the OS bundle, and thus put the originator out of business. This has happened time after time.

The problem is not that MS's adopted programs are poor products, but rather that repeated crushing of innovators has resulted in a dearth of really new ideas. MS often says they just want to "innovate" - what they really want is to dominate by whatever means they can find, including what I would term "plagerism".

I think that even breaking up the company into an OS and an application company would fail to solve the problem unless very strong oversight is added to the mix.

In any event I don't believe for a minute that a more drastic remedy would adversely affect the software development business in this country or the general economy. To the contrary both would flourish give a chance for true competition to replace monopoly.

Ernest A Bryant